

REMARKS

With the entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-2 and 4-10 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

At the outset, the applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-5 and 9-10.

In response to the objections and rejections in the Final Office Action, and in line with the Advisory Action of April 9, 2009, which noted that the allowable subject matter of claim 3 was not incorporated into claim 1, applicant has now amended claim 1 as requested by the Examiner. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the comments and suggestions. Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter from allowable claim 3 and as supported by the specification, e.g., the bottom of page 3. Claims 6-8 and 10 have been amended in line with the helpful comments of the Examiner during a telephone discussion and in line with the Examiner's helpful claim amendment suggestions on page 4 of the Office action. The other claims have been amended to place them in more conventional U.S. patent claim format. No new matter has been added.

The amended claims do not require further search because they simply incorporate subject matter from allowable claim 3, the Examiner's claim amendment suggestions, and minor formalistic changes in line with U.S. patent practice. All of this is in line with the Final Office Action and the Advisory Action.

In paragraph no. 3 on page 2 of the Final Detailed Action, claims 6-8 and 10 stand objected to as allegedly being of improper dependent form. The Examiner contends that claims 6-8 and claim 10 recite an "intended use" and do not further limit the subject matter of claim 1 or

claim 9 by reciting an additional structural limitation. Applicant respectfully disagrees, but, nevertheless, has amended the claims without prejudice in line with the Examiner's telephone suggestions and the Examiner's suggestions on page 4 of the Office Action. Applicant submits that the amendments render the objections moot.

In paragraph no. 4 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 6-8 stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Pelrine (U.S. Patent 6,361,268). Although applicant disagrees with the rejection for the detailed reasons previously stated, applicant requests the withdrawal of this rejection in view of the amended claims, e.g., claim 1 now includes all of the allowable subject matter from claim 3.

In paragraph no. 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, claim 2 stands rejected as allegedly being obvious over Pelrine. Applicant requests the withdrawal of this rejection for the same reasons as noted above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this case, the undersigned may be contacted at 703-816-4009.

Respectfully submitted,

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